



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Sensenbrenner Statement on AT&T – BellSouth Merger

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) issued the following statement today regarding AT&T's proposed \$67 billion acquisition of BellSouth.

“AT&T's announcement that it plans to acquire BellSouth demonstrates yet another step in the reconstitution of Ma Bell. The proposed acquisition of BellSouth by AT&T and the growing concentration in this marketplace reduces consumer choices and heightens the risk that consumers will pay more for local, long distance and cellular service. Consequently, careful review of the competitive aspects of the proposed merger by the Justice Department's Antitrust Division becomes all the more important. In its oversight capacity, the Committee on the Judiciary plans to aggressively scrutinize the proposed transaction and the state of competition in the broader telecommunications marketplace to reduce the risk of consumer harm from any proposed mergers.”

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